



Supervisor Keith Carson

District 5 News and Updates

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AFRICAN AMERICAN ORGANIZATIONS MAKING CONNECTIONS

Amidst state budget cuts, soaring unemployment rates and a barrage of doom and gloom news, a variety of local groups came together on Saturday May 1, 2010 at Oakland's Merritt College to participate in "African American Organizations Making Connections." The free event was attended by over 300 adults and youth and was organized to promote the good work being done and to foster new relationships in the East Bay.

The community forum included youth, local residents, and members of community organizations, county agencies, government offices, and businesses. Participants shared best practices and challenges, initiated strategic partnerships and took advantage of the opportunity to network and identify points of collaboration.

Young people played a large role in the event, offering up words of wisdom during the youth panel discussion. A dynamic group was led in a discussion by Youth Movement Records Executive Director Ryan Nicole Peters. They spoke about strategies for youth engagement and how to increase communication between

Over 300 adults and youth representing organizations that support the African American community gathered at Merritt College on Saturday May 1, 2010.



young people and adults. "Today's panelist showed that youth have something important to say, and that adults need to listen up and take notes," said Ms. Peters. "These young people offered up real ideas for how to reach out to youth and keep students on track and in school."

Andre Matthews of the Merritt College Maximum Achievement Project shared his vision of a community filled with doctors, lawyers and strong role models for youth. "Black professionals should not be a rarity," he said. Narea Wilson, a Hayward High School student and member of the East Oakland Youth Development Center, advised s to bring their outreach into the 21st century and find youth on Facebook and MySpace.

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NO TEETH IN THE STATE BUDGET

In California under Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger's leadership, providing quality health care can be like pulling teeth.

Wynne Grossman, Executive Director of the Dental Health Foundation, has seen the policy changes at the State level turn from bad to worse when it comes to oral health benefits for California residents. "The State doesn't fund much in oral health. The State used to fund Denta-Cal (Medicaid) and Children's Dental Disease Prevention Program (CDDPP). The CDDPP is suspended and Denta-Cal no longer covers adults."

Lifelong Medical Care has seen a nearly 50% cut in the dental health services due to State budget cuts. Faye Perry, a former staffer and current client of Lifelong Medical Care reflected back on her days working at the dental clinic, "we were just booming with business and the majority of our business was Medi-Cal (recipients). I'd say three quarters were Medi-Cal patients—kids and seniors."

Now that Denta-Cal only covers children, seniors and adults are left out to dry. As a result, more people are just delaying care because they can't afford it. "Dental disease isn't something that's going to go away, it only gets worse," Grossman said. "If people delay a small problem, it becomes a significant problem. And significant problems could result in infections and all sorts of complications including heart disease."

Hans Raag has used many different public health programs over the years. "We had a good dentist. At first we stopped going there because [the State] cut back 10% of what they were paying and he couldn't afford to take any Medi-Cal patients after that," Raag recalled. Now his 12 year old daughter no longer has dental coverage. Raag explains, "We just haven't gone. She's been healthy. But what are [we] going to do if something comes up? That's the whole issue."

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UPCOMING EVENTS



Monday May 17
5:30-8:30 PM

Beebe Memorial Cathedral
3900 Telegraph Avenue,
Oakland, CA 94609

RSVP to Amy DeReyes
Amy.DeReyes@acgov.org

Weathering the Storm:
Budget Briefing & Best
Practices for CBOs

[Click here for more information](#)

Next Budget Workgroup Meeting:
Monday May 17, 2010, 12-1 PM

For Budget information visit:
<http://www.acgov.org/budget.htm>

Boards & Commissions Vacancies

We are currently accepting applications from residents in the Fifth Supervisorial District who are interested in serving on a countywide board or commission. The Fifth District encompasses North and West Oakland, Montclair, Rockridge, Trestle Glen, portions of the Fruitvale and San Antonio District, and the cities of Piedmont, Berkeley, Emeryville, and Albany. The following is a list of boards and commissions that have vacancies:

Alameda County Advisory Commission on Aging: 2 Vacancies

The commission provides guidance to policymakers on senior issues and programming and advises in the allocation of funds for the Area Agency on Aging

Meeting Time: 9:30a.m., 2nd Monday of each month at 6955 Foothill Blvd, Suite 300, Oakland

Measure A Citizen Oversight Committee: 1 Vacancy

Measure A is the voter approved 1/2 cent sales tax to fund healthcare in Alameda County. The Citizens Oversight Committee monitors Measure A spending and publishes reports for each fiscal year.

Meeting Time: 9:00a.m., 4th Friday of each month at 1000 San Leandro Blvd., San Leandro

Housing and Community Development Advisory Board: 1 Vacancy

The Board assesses the funding needs of Federal Housing and Community Development Act projects

Meeting time: 7:00p.m., 2nd Tuesday of odd months at 224 West Winton, #108, Hayward

**If you are interested in applying for any Boards or Commissions send a resume and cover letter to: Mina Sanchez
1221 Oak Street, Suite 536, Oakland, CA 94612
or mina.sanchez@acgov.org**

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Local business owners also appreciated the chance to network. Shorron Levy of Levy Promotional Products felt that the event came just at the right time. "It was valuable to have the opportunity to reconnect and touch base," she said. "This was a rather timely event for our community, especially for black and minority business owners."

The purpose of the event was to come together to find out about all the great work being done and to recognize the everyday heroes and sheroes in the community. All day long people were making new connections and offering up solutions. For example, participants in a workshop on arts and culture came up with the idea to help artists by convening a series of salons at local galleries.

After opening prayers, Congresswoman Barbara Lee addressed the crowd about the Congressional Black Caucus and the state of Black America. Assemblymember Sandré Swanson spoke about the state of the African

American community in California and Dr. Wade Nobles, founder and Executive Director of the Institute for the Advanced Study of Black Family, Life and Culture, gave a keynote address on "Culture: the Glue that Binds."

Later in the breakout sessions, participants continued to touch on the theme of caring adults involved in young people's lives.

James Moore, Executive Director of the African American Business Exchange, facilitated a session about economic development. "Growth of the African American business community will rely on how businesses are able to bridge the generation gap. Providing internship opportunities will help educate youth on how to run businesses or create their own," said Mr. Moore. "The economic empowerment of our community will need to include businesses connecting with each other in order to share resources."

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Without oral care, people will turn to County emergency rooms for treatment, which is much more expensive than preventative care. Governor Schwarzenegger's misguided short-term solutions to balance the State budget will ultimately cost our community, not only in unforeseen burdens on local government, but also in terms of our health for generations to come.

View video of these interviews and others at:

www.TerminatorTourCA.org

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Alameda County Social Services Agency



AC HIRE

PUTTING ALAMEDA COUNTY TO WORK.

alamedasocialservices.org/public/community/ac_hire

MAY IS NATIONAL FOSTER CARE MONTH



Foster Care
change a lifetime

www.fostercaremonth.org

[Oakland A's Event](#) May 21



The Alzheimer's Association, UC Davis Alzheimer's Disease Center and Supervisor Carson put on an informative presentation called "Caregiving and Wellness Forum on Healthy Aging II" on April 23 at the West Oakland Senior Center. 200 in the community attended.

HELP FOR HOMEOWNERS

<http://www.unitycouncilhoc.org/>

»Loan modification Information«

